

Professional Performing Arts School
Ninth Grade Humanities Summer Project 2020

Welcome to 9th grade and PPAS! We can't wait to learn, think, and grow with you.

Your summer assignment is inspired by a quotation from Madeline L'Engle's book, *A Wrinkle in Time*:

"...though we travel together, we travel alone" (L'Engle 75).

What does this statement mean to *you*, personally? Consider what this may have meant to you before the pandemic, and how it's meaning may have changed for you since schools closed in March.

Our ninth grade Humanities course will take us on a journey to learn about the history, art, literature, and cultures of our global community. The stories we explore in this summer project take us on journeys across continents, cultures, planets, and time.

THE TASKS

- ★ **Read 2 books**
- ★ **Take notes on anything you find interesting or with which you have a connection. Keep track of great quotes.**
- ★ **Create one artistic work.**
- ★ **Write a letter to your teacher**

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Read & take notes-- *A Wrinkle in Time***, by Madeleine L'Engle

If you have previously read this novel, re-read it with a more mature mind. It may seem like a simple book, but it's not! DO NOT WATCH THE MOVIE. IT DOESN'T FOLLOW THE BOOK.

TIP: Use Post-Its to mark pages and write reflective notes! You can also take notes on a separate paper or on google docs! You will need these in September!

2. **Create--** In this book, "It" is an all-powerful force that demands uniformity. On Camazotz, there is no individuality. **Create an artistic representation of "It."** This can be a drawing, painting, collage, or sculpture. It can also be a song, monologue, or spoken word poem recorded or performed live in class. Show us your creativity! ***ALL work must be original!***
3. **Read & take notes-- *Homegoing*** by Yaa Gyasi

This is a story about two Ghanaian sisters who were victims of the Gold Coast slave trade. It follows their lives and the lives of seven generations of their descendants. This is a book

which helps us to understand, on a deeper level, the devastating effects of colonialism and slavery on Africans and African Americans.

Consider these questions when reading *Homegoing*:

- ★ *Can you relate to the characters? How can't you relate?*
- ★ *How has this book enriched your understanding of race relations today?*
- ★ *Which were the most upsetting scenes in the book? The most uplifting ones?*

TIP: Use Post-Its to mark pages and write reflective notes! You can also take notes on a separate paper or on google docs! You will need these in September!

4. Write-- Life disruptions such as COVID-19 and social unrest can have deep and long-lasting impacts. **Please write a letter (350-500 words) to your 9th grade Humanities teacher introducing yourself and describing how you have been affected.**

- ★ What has life been like for you and your family since schools closed in March? Your teachers care about the effects on your health and well-being, safety, family circumstances, future plans, and education, including access to reliable technology and quiet study spaces.
- ★ How do you feel you learned and performed during remote learning? What worked? What didn't? Do not be shy. We have all suffered in different ways over the past months, and it is important for us to be able to connect with you on a personal level.

Note:

We don't yet know what school will look like in the Fall, so please do your art project as if you will be presenting it in class.

Your writing assignment should be in a Google Doc.

Formatting instructions: Double-space, *Times New Roman* or *Arial*, 12-point font.

Questions? E-mail MSale@ppasshare.org. Be patient! It's summer and it takes longer to respond to e-mails.